

VERTEBRATE TYPE-SPECIMENS IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

V. MAMMALS

by

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ABSTRACT

AITKEN, P. F., 1976. Vertebrate type-specimens in the South Australian Museum, V. Mammals. *Rec. S. Aust. Mus.* 17(11):197-203.

Type-specimens of 19 species or subspecies are housed in the mammal collection at the South Australian Museum. They comprise either holotypes, lectotypes, syntypes or paratypes of 11 marsupials, seven rodents and one chiropteran. All are from Australia except the chiropteran which is Papuan.

INTRODUCTION

Although the acquisition of mammals for display began some years earlier, registration of mammal specimens at the South Australian Museum did not commence until July, 1890, when such specimens were first entered in the Taxidermist's Register. This register was superseded by the current Mammal Register in January, 1911. Since 1890 five species and 10 subspecies of Australian mammals, plus one species of Papuan mammal, have been described from specimens in the Museum's mammal collection, and type-specimens of three more Australian mammals have been acquired from other institutions.

Some type-specimens in the mammal collection were described by authors who identified them individually in original descriptions, documented their dispositions and labelled them as types. These have been easy to catalogue. Others, on the other hand, were described by authors who did not identify them individually in original descriptions, gave few clues to their dispositions and did not label them as types. Cataloguing such specimens has been extremely difficult and has devolved on deduction and assumption rather than factual knowledge. Most types in the collection described by Wood Jones and many paratypes described by Finlayson are in the latter category. In many cases Wood Jones' types are quite impossible to identify from his original descriptions, and in the absence of personally attached labels, if indeed these were ever present, can never be selected with certainty. The South Australian Museum may well have unsuspected Wood Jones types, in addition to those catalogued, of the following species: *Myrmecobius rufus* Wood Jones 1923, *Dromicia britta* Wood Jones 1925 and *Arctocephalus doriferus* Wood Jones 1925.

MARSUPIALIA

Dasyuridae

Planigale gilesi Aitken, 1972. (Fig. 1)

Rec. S. Aust. Mus. 16 (10): 1, pls. 1, 2, 3a-d.

Holotype: M8406, male skin and skull plus torso in spirit, No. 3 Bore, pastoral property of Anna Creek, South Australia, collected P. Aitken, A. Kowanko, J. Forrest and J. Howard, 29.vi.1969.

Paratypes: M8407, male skin and skull, collected P. Aitken, A. Robinson and M. Stanley, 25.vii.1969; M8408 and M8409, male skins and skulls, collected P. Aitken, J. Forrest and J. Glover, 26.xi.1969; M8410, male in spirit, collected P. Aitken, A. Robinson and M. Stanley, 27.vii.1969; M8411, female in spirit with skull extracted, collected A. Kowanko and J. Glover, 25.vii.1970, locality data of all as for Holotype.

NOTES—Five additional paratypes are at the Australian Museum: M7033, female in spirit with skull extracted, collected J. Kirkby, 27.ii.1945 and M7393, collected v.1948, both from Bellata, New South Wales, Australia; M7819, male in spirit with skull extracted and M7820, female in spirit with skull extracted, both from Brewarrina, New South Wales, Australia, collected K. Turnbull, 1954; M9190, male in spirit, Lake Cawndilla, Kinchega National Park, New South Wales, Australia, collected M. Gray, 20.v.1969.

Phascogale (Antechinus) swainsoni maritima Finlayson, 1958.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 81: 148, pls. 1a-h, 2a-b.

= *Antechinus minimus maritimus* (Finlayson) vide Wakefield and Warneke, 1963.

Holotype: M4985, male in spirit with skull extracted, Port MacDonnell, South Australia, collected G. H. Tilley, VI. 1938.

NOTES—Ten paratypes were indicated, but not identified individually, by Finlayson. All are in his private collection.

Myrmecobius fasciatus rufus Finlayson, 1933.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 57: 203.

= *Myrmecobius fasciatus rufus* (Wood Jones) vide Tate, 1951.

Syntypes: M3061, female skin and skull, south of the Musgrave and north of the Everard Ranges, South Australia, collected A. Brumby, date of collection unknown; M3759, female in spirit Oolarinna, north of the Everard Ranges, South Australia, collected R. T. Maurice, date of collection unknown.

NOTES—Wood Jones (1923) published the first description of *Myrmecobius rufus* based on at least two syntypes, the skulls of which are at the odontological museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. His description was of a preliminary nature in which the name *Myrmecobius rufus* was treated as a synonym of *M. fasciatus* (Waterhouse), pending further description in a "scientific journal". Finlayson (1933) apparently considered that Wood Jones had not made the name *Myrmecobius rufus* available in nomenclature and published a fresh description under the name *Myrmecobius fasciatus rufus*, based on two new syntypes selected from a series of 17 examples. However, Wood Jones' original name undoubtedly is available under the provisions of Article 11 (d) of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature and therefore has priority.

Peramelidae

Thalacomys nigripes Wood Jones, 1923, (Fig. 2)

Rec. S. Aust. Mus. 2 (3): 347, figs. 358-60.

= *Macrotis lagotis nigripes* (Wood Jones) vide Troughton, 1932 (1).

Paratype: M3922, male in spirit, Oldea Soak, South Australia (by inference), donated Daisy M. Bates, date of collection unknown.



Fig. 1. *Planigale gilesi* Aitken, 1972. Paratype male—M 8410. (Photo—Roman Ruehle.)

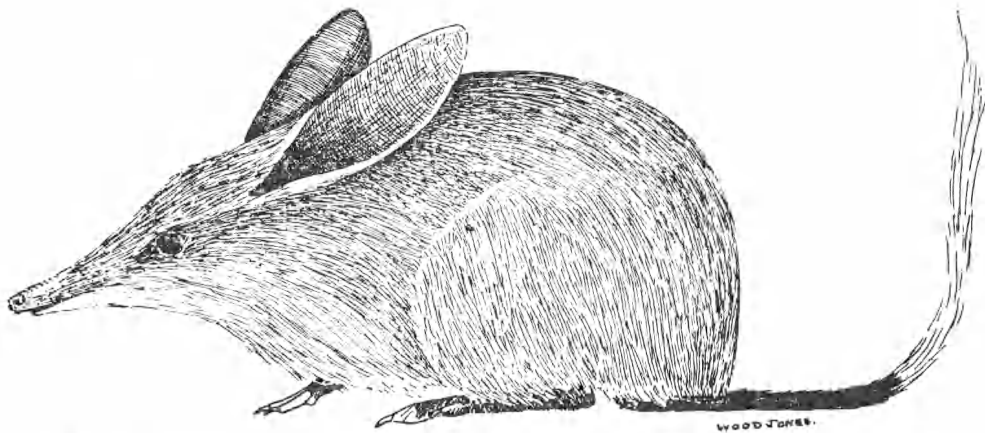


Fig. 2. *Thalacomys nigripes* Wood Jones, 1923. General characters of adult male. (Drawing—F. Wood Jones.)

NOTES—Wood Jones based his description on a holotype and four paratypes, none of which was identified individually. He stated that one of this series was a male spirit-preserved specimen in the South Australian Museum, from Ooldea Soak, captured by Aborigines and donated by Mrs. Daisey M. Bates. It is reasonable to assume that the paratype listed above was that specimen, because it fits the sub-specific description of Wood Jones and, although its locality is not entered in the mammal register, it is the only spirit specimen of *M. lagotis* in the South Australian Museum, known to have been donated by Daisy Bates. The skin of the holotype male is at the British Museum (Natural History), registered number 1925.10.8.1 and its skull is at the odontological museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, registered number A.378.31. The whereabouts of the remaining three paratypes is unknown.

***Thalacomys minor miselius* Finlayson, 1932,**

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. **56**: 168.

=*Macrotis minor miselius* (Finlayson) vide Iredale and Troughton, 1934.

Holotype: M3465, male skin and skull, Cooncherie, South Australia, collected L. Reese and H. H. Finlayson, xii.1931.

NOTES—A series of 11 paratypes was indicated by Finlayson, but none was identified individually. They are all presumably in his private collection.

***Macrotis lagotis grandis* Troughton, 1932.**

Aust. Zool. **7** (3): 229.

Holotype: M5225, male stuffed skin without skull, Nalpa, South Australia, collector and collection date unknown.

Paratype: M1625, skull (sex unknown), Nalpa, South Australia, collected Dr. E. Stirling, vi.1891.

NOTES—Troughton designated three paratype skulls from Nalpa . . . "as listed by Wood-Jones (1923-5 : 156)". The South Australian Museum has four skulls of *M. lagotis* from Nalpa, but only one of these has dimensions which correspond to those of a skull listed by Wood Jones. The whereabouts of the other two paratype skulls is unknown.

Phalangeridae

***Trichosurus vulpecula raii* Finlayson, 1963.**

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. **87**: 18.

Holotype: M2518, male skin and skull, scrubs of Rocky River, Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island, South Australia, collected H. H. Finlayson and F. J. Rau, viii.1928.

Paratypes: M2509, M2524, M2530, M2541 to M2543, M2545 and M2546, female skins and skulls; M2516, M2517, M2519, M2531, M2532, M2540, M2544 and M2548, male skins and skulls; M2526, M2547 and M2561, female skulls; M2559 and M2560, male skulls, locality and collection data of all as for Holotype.

NOTES—According to the mammal register of the South Australian Museum, two additional paratypes with the same locality and collection data as the holotype were sent to the Australian Museum—M2515, male skin and skull and M2525,

female skin and skull (original South Australian Museum registration numbers). Six other paratypes were indicated, but not identified individually by Finlayson; they are presumably in his private collection.

Macropodidae

***Bettongia penicillata anhydra* Finlayson, 1957.**

Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. Ser. 12 **10** (115): 552.

=*Bettongia lesueur* (Quoy and Gaimard) vide Wakefield, 1967.

Holotype: M3582, skull (sex unknown), McEwin Hills, Northern Territory, Australia, collected M. Terry, 20.i.1933.

NOTE—The holotype was the only original specimen.

***Bettongia penicillata francisca* Finlayson, 1957.**

Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. Ser. 12 **10** (115): 552.

Holotype: M5484, part skull (sex unknown), Saint Francis Island, Nuyt's Archipelago, Australia, collector and collection date unknown.

NOTES—According to the mammal register of the South Australian Museum, M5484 has no locality or collection data, but was found untagged in an old collection and registered in 1945. How Finlayson knew that it had been discovered on Saint Francis Island has never been explained. The holotype was the only original specimen.

***Lagorchestes asomatus* Finlayson, 1943.**

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. **67**: 319, pls. 33 A-D and 34 E-H.

Holotype: M3710, skull (sex unknown), between Mount Farewell and Lake Mackay, Northern Territory, Australia, collected M. Terry, i.1933.

NOTE—The holotype was the only original specimen.

***Thylogale flindersi* Wood Jones, 1924,**

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. **48**: 12.

=*Macropus eugenii flindersi* (Wood Jones).

Paratypes: M1749 and M1751, skulls (sex unknown), Flinders Island, South Australia, collectors and collection dates unknown; M1750, skull (sex unknown), Flinders Island, South Australia, ex Adelaide Zoological Gardens, 30.ix.1892; M2025, female skin and skull, Flinders Island, South Australia, collected F. Wood Jones, i.1924.

NOTES—Wood Jones based his description on a series of nine specimens, one of which he designated as the holotype. Only three of the paratypes (M1749 to M1751 above) were individually identified by number, but the female (M2025) was almost certainly another paratype, since she was presented to the South Australian Museum by Wood Jones and, from her collection data, must have been the female mentioned in his description as having been snared on Flinders Island in 1924. The whereabouts of the remaining four paratypes is unknown, but the skin of the holotype male is at the British Museum (Natural History), registered number 1925.10.8.11 and its skull is at the odontological museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, registered number A.347.91.

RODENTIA

Muridae

Conilurus pedunculatus Waite, 1896.

Rept. Horn. Sci. Exped. Centr. Aust. 2 (Zool.): 395, figs. 1a-f.

= *Zyzyomys pedunculatus* (Waite) vide Ride, 1970.

Syntypes: M2412 and M2437, male skulls, labelled "Horn Expedition, spec. F" and "spec. B" respectively.

NOTES—The whereabouts of the skins for the above skulls is unknown, as is the exact location of the remaining five syntypes designated by Waite (A, C, D, E, and G). The erection of a lectotype is thus considered inappropriate at present. According to Dixon (1970) the Australian Museum, Sydney, probably has specimens A and G, numbered M1064 and M1065, and the National Museum, Victoria, has another supposed syntype numbered C7806 and labelled "F". As pointed out by Dixon, the latter specimen could not be specimen F because it is a male in spirit and F was a male with the skull removed. Other specimens of *Z. pedunculatus*, some of which were possibly in Waite's syntypic series, are in the Australian Museum: M1158, skin with skull *in situ*, Central Australia, ex. Horn 1896 and M1298, skin with skull *in situ*, Alice Springs, Australia, ex. Spencer, 1898; and in the South Australian Museum: M4384, female in spirit and M4385 to M4387, males in spirit, Alice Springs, collected Horn Expedition, also M4379, female in spirit, labelled "Conilurus hirsutius, Alice Springs, don. Prof. B. Spencer, Dir. Mus. Melbourne, 1.10.1900".

Ascopharynx fuscus Wood Jones, 1925.

Rec. S. Aust. Mus. 3: 3.

= *Notomys fuscus* (Wood Jones) vide Aitken, 1968.

Lectotype: M6258, male in spirit with skull extracted, Ooldea, South Australia, collected A. G. Bolam, date of collection unknown.

NOTES—Wood Jones based his description on four, or possibly five, syntypes selected from "numerous specimens" of *N. fuscus* that he stated he had received from A. G. Bolam collected "about Ooldea". None of these syntypes was identified individually and all were apparently in Wood Jones' private collection. In 1959, Finlayson discovered what he considered was one of the syntypes in the museum of the Department of Zoology, University of Adelaide registered number—524. He transferred this specimen to the South Australian Museum and erected it as lectotype (Finlayson 1960). However, although Finlayson's lectotype is almost certainly one of the "numerous specimens" Wood Jones received from A. G. Bolam, and although its body dimensions are reasonably close to those of one of the two male syntypes for which Wood Jones supplied body dimensions, there appears to be no real proof that Finlayson's lectotype was, in fact, a syntype. It bears no label signifying it as such, nor is it listed as a type in the museum register of the Department of Zoology, which for No. 524 reads—"Ascopharynx fuscus, Ooldea, F. Wood Jones (A. G. Bolam)". According to Mr. J. A. Mahoney of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, Sydney University (pers. comm.), there are more specimens of *N. fuscus* from Wood Jones' collection in London, where nearly all of Wood Jones' private type material is housed. Further evaluation of the validity of Finlayson's Lectotype might be possible after a critical examination of these specimens.

Another specimen of *N. fuscus*, which may have been a Wood Jones syntype, is M5966 in the South Australian Museum. This is a male in spirit with a damaged tail, whose body dimensions correspond very closely to those of the second male syntype for which Wood Jones supplied body dimensions, and which he described as having an imperfect tail. This specimen was also donated by the Department of Zoology, University of Adelaide, to the South Australian Museum, where it is still stored in a Department of Zoology spirit jar, presumably the

one in which it was transferred. With the specimen in the jar is its original Department of Zoology label, on which is written—"Rodentia, Muridae, Ascopharynx fuscus, museum No. 524", the same number as that of Finlayson's lectotype. According to the mammal register of the South Australian Museum, M5966 was transferred from the Department of Zoology in 1953, whereas Finlayson's lectotype was not transferred until 1959. It is probable that number 524 of the Department of Zoology museum originally referred to both specimens, because no other entries for *Ascopharynx* (= *Notomys fuscus*) appear in the museum register of the Department of Zoology.

Notomys fuscus eyreius Finlayson, 1960.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 83: 81.

= *Notomys fuscus* (Wood Jones) vide Aitken, 1968.

Holotype: M4595, female skin and skull, Mulka (New Well) east side of Lake Eyre, South Australia, collected G. Aiston, iv.1934.

Paratypes: M3354, male in spirit and M3355, male skin and skull, Mulka, South Australia, collected G. Aiston, vi.1932. M4579 and M4581, male skins and skulls; M4580, skin and skull (sex unknown); M4601, skull (sex unknown); M4582 to M4594, males in spirit; M4602 to M4604, immature males in spirit; M4597 to M4599 and M4600, females in spirit, Mulka (New Well), South Australia, collected G. Aiston, iv.1934. M6098 and M6099, male skins and part skulls; M6148, male in spirit and M6100 female skin and part skull, lagoon ruins, Goyders Lagoon, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 28.vii.1957. M6113 and M6125, female skins and part skulls, Cordillo Downs homestead, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 7.vii.1957. M6114, female part skull; M6115 and M6117 female skins and part skulls and M6129, male skin and part skull, Etadunna, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 28.vi.1957. M6116 and M6126, male skins and part skulls; M6124, female skin and part skull and M6145, male in spirit, Mudderaoocotera Hills, Innamincka, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 18.viii.1957. M6119 and M6120, male skins and part skulls and M6127, female skin and part skull, Motor Car Dam, Innamincka, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 18.viii.1957. M6122, male skin and part skull and M6123, female skin and part skull, Howica Dam, Innamincka, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 18.viii.1957. M6152 and M6153, males in spirit; M6151 male skin in spirit and part skull; M6153 female skin in spirit and part skull, Tilpatee Waterhole, Sirzelecki Creek, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson 22.viii.1957.

NOTES—According to the mammal register of the South Australian Museum, two additional paratypes were donated to the Museum of the Northern Territory Administration, Animal Industries Branch at Alice Springs: M6121, male skin and skull and M6188, female in spirit, Innamincka, South Australia, collected R. Tedford and P. Lawson, 18.viii.1957.

In his description Finlayson indicated a series of 52 specimens, 27 of which he stated were from Mulka and 25 from other localities in the Lake Eyre Basin, "most of the latter having been collected and carefully prepared in the field by Mr. Paul Lawson . . . and Mr. R. Tedford". Only the holotype was identified individually by number.

It is reasonable to assume that the 26 paratypes from Mulka were those listed above, because, apart from the holotype, they are the only specimens of *N. fuscus* from Mulka in the South Australian Museum. It is probable that the remaining 25 paratypes were those additionally listed above, because they are the only other specimens of *N. fuscus* from the Lake Eyre Basin in the South Australian Museum that would have been available to Finlayson at the time. It is just possible, however, that the latter specimens might not all be paratypes, because all were collected by Lawson and Tedford, not "most" as stated by Finlayson.

Notomys alexis everardensis Finlayson, 1940.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 64: 133.

Lectotype: M3673, female skin and skull, Chundrinna, north of the Everard Range, South Australia, collected H. H. Finlayson, ii.1933.

Allolectotype: M3685, male skin and part skull, Walthajalkanna, north of the Everard Range, South Australia, collected H. H. Finlayson, ii.1933.

Paralectotypes: M3669 and M3671, male skins and skulls, Chundrinna; M3672, female skin and skull, Chundrinna; M3684, female skin and skull, Walthajalkanna; M3686 male skin and skull, Walthajalkanna; M3670, male in spirit, Chundrinna; M3674, M3675 and M3688, females in spirit, Chundrinna; M3676 to M3679, M3681, M3682 and M3687, females in spirit, Walthajalkanna; M3680 and M3683, males in spirit, Walthajalkanna, all collected H. H. Finlayson, ii.1933.

NOTES—Finlayson indicated a series of 40 specimens in his description. Two of these he selected as opposite-sexed cotypes. I have designated the female as lectotype because she has a complete skull. None of the other specimens in the series was identified individually, but it is probable that 18 of them are those paralectotypes listed above, because they are entered together with the lectotype and allolectotype in Finlayson's handwriting in the mammal register of the South Australian Museum. The type locality described by Finlayson encompassed both Chundrinna and Walthajalkanna, but he did not state from which locality each of his type-specimens was collected. His entries in the mammal register clarify this matter. The twenty additional paralectotypes are presumably in Finlayson's private collection.

Pseudomys (Gyomys) apodemoides Finlayson, 1932.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 56: 170.

—*Pseudomys albocinereus* (Gould) vide Ride, 1970.

Holotype: M3466, female in spirit, Coombe, South Australia, collected W. J. Harvey, viii.1932.

Paratypes: M3467, male skull and skeleton, M3468 to M3471, skulls and skeletons (sex unknown), locality and collection data of all as for Holotype.

NOTES—In his description Finlayson indicated a series of 14 specimens, one of which he designated as the holotype. None of the others was identified individually, but it is probable that five of the remaining 13 specimens in the series were those paratypes listed above, because they are registered in Finlayson's handwriting, consecutively with the holotype, in the mammal register of the South Australian Museum. Originally these 5 specimens were preserved in spirit, but in 1964 their bodies were found to be decomposed so they were reprepared as skulls and skeletons. The other eight paratypes are presumably in Finlayson's private collection.

Mus hermannsburgensis Waite, 1896.

Rept. Horn Sci. Exped. Centr. Aust. 2 (zool): 405, figs. 5a-f.

—*Pseudomys (Leggadina) hermannsburgensis* (Waite) vide Troughton, 1932 (2).

Paralectotypes: M2417 and M2417B, female skulls, labelled "Horn Expedition, spec. B" and "spec. C" respectively.

NOTES—Waite based his description on five syntypes (A, B, C, D, and E), one of which was erected lectotype by Troughton (1932) and is at the Australian Museum, Sydney, registered number M1070A. This is a mounted specimen of indeterminate sex, but according to Troughton was probably specimen D. Dixon (1970) claimed that the National Museum of Victoria held three of the four paralectotypes: C7807, male in spirit, which must be specimen A because this was the only male syntype; C7808, female in spirit, which is probably specimen E, because this was the only specimen, other than D, in which the skull was not removed; and C4879, female skin without skull. The latter is almost certainly the skin from one of the two South Australian Museum paralectotype skulls. The whereabouts of the other missing female skin is unknown, it may be the mounted skin of *L. hermannsburgensis* at the Australian Museum mentioned by Troughton as being registered with the lectotype.

Rattus greyi pelori Finlayson, 1960.

Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 83: 140.

—*Rattus fuscipes greyii* (Gray) vide Taylor and Horner, 1973.

Holotype: M6268, male skin and skull, north slope, main mass of Greenly Island, Australia, collected H. H. Finlayson, xi.1947.

NOTES—Finlayson indicated a series of 13 specimens in his description, but, except for the holotype, none was identified individually. In addition to the holotype, the South Australian Museum has 12 *R. f. greyii* from the main mass of Greenly Island, collected by a South Australian Museum expedition in December 1947. It is possible that these are the paratypes. Their numbers are M5738 to M5749 inclusive, all are skins and skulls.

CHIROPTERA

Vespertilionidae

Lamingtona lophorhina McKean and Calaby, 1968.

Mammalia, 32 (3): 373, figs. 1-2.

Holotype: M6404, female skin and skull, Mount Lamington, Papua, purchased from C. T. McNamara, xii.1929.

Paratypes: M6402 and M6403, male skins and skulls, and M6401, male in spirit, locality and purchase data of all as for Holotype.

NOTES—Two additional paratypes, CM2090 and CM2091, female skins and skulls with the same locality and purchase data as the holotype, are at the Division of Wildlife Research, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to Mr. J. A. Mahoney of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, Sydney University, for information on the whereabouts of the holotype specimens of *Thalacomys nigripes* Wood Jones, *Thylogale flindersi* Wood Jones and the syntype specimens of *Myrmecobius rufus* Wood Jones.

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— NOTES —